

HCS HB 1444 -- VEHICLE LICENSING

SPONSOR: Eggleston

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass with HCS" by the Standing Committee on Transportation by a vote of 6 to 3. Voted "Do Pass" by the Rules- Administrative Oversight Committee by a vote of 7 to 4.

This bill repeals the inspection requirement for non-commercial motor vehicles which is currently required in order to renew a motor vehicle license. The air quality and emission inspection requirements for St. Louis and some specified areas which are mandated by federal law are not modified. Inspection stations may still perform school bus safety inspections, and odometer reading inspections and services for transferring vehicle ownership. The highway patrol will provide services related to certain trailer registration.

This bill has an effective date of January 1, 2019.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that the bill will reduce government regulation and inconvenience to citizens without impacting roadway safety in any respect. Most other states have abolished safety inspections and there is no statistically showing of greater accident or injury rates.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Eggleston and Missouri Farm Bureau.

OPPONENTS: Those who oppose the bill say that inspections are useful in forcing people to make necessary repairs such as brake pad replacement, suspension repair, and changing their tires on a regular basis. Half of cars on the road are older than 10 years and should probably be inspected to ensure safety.

Testifying against the bill were Missouri Tire Industry Association; AAA Auto Club of Missouri; Ben Steinman; and Alliance of Automotive Service Providers of Missouri.

OTHERS: Others testifying on the bill say some federal matching funds could be lost since revenue from inspections can be used for those purposes.

Testifying on the bill were Missouri Department of Transportation and Captain Lester Elder, State Highway Patrol.